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Foreword

The present volume contains selected manuscripts presented at the XIX Iberian Symposium on Marine Biology Studies (SIEBM XIX), organized by the Interdisciplinary Centre of Marine and Environmental Research (CIIMAR), and held from 05 to 09 September 2016 in Porto, Portugal. The conference was attended by 178 participants of 5 countries (Portugal, Spain, Brazil, Italy, México and Norway). There were five main subject areas addressed during the event: (1) Ecology, Biodiversity and Vulnerable Ecosystems; (2) Global Changes, Invasive Species and Conservation; (3) Oceanography, Modelling and Ecosystem Dynamics; (4) Fisheries, Aquaculture and Biotechnology; and (5) Ecotourism, Environmental Education and Science Outreach. The congress was organized with parallel oral sessions and poster exhibitions, and included eight invited plenary lectures made by world renowned marine biology researchers. A total of 88 regular oral presentations and 134 poster exhibitions were received and a selection of 13 manuscripts was considered for inclusion into the peer review process for potential publication in the Conference proceedings. The papers have been grouped to reflect certain subject areas focused during the symposium. Not all of the subject areas are adequately reflected here in this special volume in part because of a rigorous peer review process, involving at least two independent referees for each individual submitted paper. Some had, unfortunately, to be rejected while not meeting the quality standards required by the journal. We wish to acknowledge all the referees that have assisted us in this selection of papers. A special thanks to the editorial board

members of the Regional Studies in Marine Science is also due. We also acknowledge the support of the various institutions and sponsors who made possible the organization of this event.

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